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The Observer

By the students, for the students

Infected, quarantined, out of work

How a positive COVID-19 test hit one local family medically and financially



Trinidad Serrano with her husband Filiberto (left) and son Juan (right). Trinidad tested positive for COVID-19.

*Editor's note: Trinidad Serrano's comments have been translated from Spanish to English by her son, Juan.

Mitchell Roland
Senior Reporter

When Trinidad Serrano's COVID-19 tests came back, Juan Serrano was nearly speechless.

"Once the results came in, that's when reality hit," Juan said. "At first, I was kind of in shock."

Juan, a junior psychology major, said his mom Trinidad Serrano was initially diagnosed with influenza A and B as well as pneumonia. Soon after, results came back that she had tested positive for COVID-19.

Trinidad's symptoms started off with periods of hot and cold sweats. From there, she developed a cough, back pain and a fever of 104 degrees. She avoided going to the doctor as long as possible, even taking hot showers to try and cool her fever down. Eventually though, she went after she simply couldn't handle the symptoms anymore.

"This illness is really serious," Trinidad said. "I'm strong, so this illness didn't necessarily scare me."

While Trinidad's symptoms lasted approximately two weeks, she's been quarantined for the last 40 days. It's



Photos courtesy of Juan Serrano

been heartbreaking for her to not be around her family during this time. However, Trinidad still feels their love.

"My saving grace was having so much family that supported me," Trinidad said.

For Juan, one of the most difficult things about Trinidad's diagnosis was not being able to see her while she was sick.

"For me, it was emotionally devastating," Juan said. "When I found out she was sick, I really wanted to be there for her."

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Farmers market to continue

Gabriel Lizama
Staff Reporter

The Ellensburg Farmers Market will open May 23 with new safety precautions.

In recent years, the Farmers Market has been an attraction for social gathering and creating memories. However, this year people are asked to get what they need and avoid the tradition of hanging out in the 'Burg, according to Colin Lamb, the manager of the Farmers Market.

Lamb said there are going to be fewer vendors this year in order to maintain safety precautions. With safety being a number one priority, booths will be spaced out and there will be additional washing stations for people to use, according to Lamb.

Lamb is a seasoned veteran running the Farmers Market as not only the manager for three years but also as a janitor. Lamb said in past years safety has always been a priority and still is, but it's not stopping him from trying to make the market happen.

In years past, the Farmers Market didn't have to limit vendors. Lamb has asked crafters not to attend this year to focus on farmers selling crops. Lamb is expecting to have around 20 vendors available at the start and during peak season, he is asking up to 30 vendors to attend.

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Campus closed for summer, staff reduced

Bailey Tomlinson
News Editor

Services will be closed over the summer and staff will be reduced, an email to the student body from President James L. Gaudino said following the May 15 Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting. These decisions come following a requirement by the Office of Financial Management to reduce next year's budgets by 15%, or \$9.9 million, beginning July 1.

"Regrettably, workforce reductions will be an unavoidable outcome of that order. I will honor my pledge not to make staff reductions through June 30 of this year," the email read. "But I have directed my cabinet officers to reduce staffing levels from July 1 through August 31."

Gaudino added that reductions in staff will be based on changing needs of the university.

"Because enrollment remains strong, I am not planning to reduce the number of tenured or tenure track faculty. Non-tenured faculty contracts will be offered or extended as the demand for classes requires," the email read.

The BOT meeting agenda executive summary states that admissions officers are facing challenges in recruiting the incoming class. These challenges are listed as a decrease in high school graduates, closure of K-12 classrooms, cancellations of ACT and SAT tests, difficulty in acquiring high school transcripts, and temporary changes across the K-12 and higher education sectors.

There is a reported increase in both applications and students admitted to CWU from last year (2,171 versus 2,532), the total confirmed student count is 14% lower than May 2019, according to the executive summary document.

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Casey Rothgeb/The Observer

Observation Deck

Nicholas Tucker
Editor-in-Chief

It's the seventh issue of the quarter and all of us on The Observer staff are wondering where the time has gone. Only two issues left.

I can proudly announce that The Observer will continue its coverage over the summer. It's unknown if we'll be putting out virtual issues, but the news goes on and our online coverage will too. Much of the current staff has volunteered for the skeletons crew.

It was bound to be like this, arriving at the final weeks of the quarter and feeling out of time. At least for me, it seems to happen every quarter. This time though, there's an added layer because the pandemic messes with our perception of time. The past world is completely gone, the present is a prison, and the future is blank.

The end of winter quarter was when everything was really getting serious, so spring quarter and the timeline of the pandemic line up closely. The former feels like it's been just a few weeks. The latter feels like it has been years.

What has helped to keep track of time has been to watch the progress of the staff as we work. We're increasingly putting out a better product, faster, with fewer fires to put out along the way. Some are working from elsewhere in the state or the country, all are working from home, doing interviews over zoom or the phone, and gathering information digitally.

This issue includes a feature piece by Senior Reporter Mitchell Roland, who profiled a local family's struggle following their matriarch's positive COVID-19 diagnosis. Reading it gave me a gut-wrenching look at what the virus actually looks like in a person, a glimpse at the human reality where many of us are focused on the numbers and epidemiologic curves.

Staff Reporter Joseph Stanger wrote a story on the booming biking business in Ellensburg, and how the ReCycle shop in downtown Ellensburg is adapting to the new demand and the new risks. That story is accompanied by some fantastic photos taken by staff photographer Takashi de Leon.

Takashi was pulling double duty in this issue, writing an opinion piece

on how the debates between stay-at-home orders and reopening the country are a false dichotomy. He presents some alternative paths that we could take, and explores why we haven't gone down those yet. Give it a read, it feels strangely relieving to look at the issue in a non-combative way.

The end of the quarter approaches, and it doesn't feel right.

"Yeah, duh, there's a pandemic, nothing feels right," one could say.

But for me and hundreds of other seniors, the end isn't the triumphant one we expected. We're leaving our old life behind and walking into the void. It's harrowing and disappointing. To keep some perspective, I try to remember that everyone is hit in some way by the historical events of their generation. My parents have 9/11 and the 2008 crash. Their parents have Vietnam and all of the other ways America was shaken during the 60s. They got through it and their memories are full of friendship and success and perseverance, so I suspect we'll be fine too.

I can't wait to look back at all of the masked graduation photos.

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Editorial Policy: The Observer is a public forum for student expression, in which student editors make policy and content decisions. The mission of The Observer is two-fold: to serve Central Washington University as a newspaper and to provide training for students who are seeking a career in journalism. The Observer seeks to provide complete, accurate, dependable information to the campus and community; to provide a public forum for the free debate of issues, ideas and problems facing the community at large; and to be the best source of information, education and entertainment news. As a training program, The Observer is the practical application of the theories and principles of journalism. It teaches students to analyze and communicate information that is vital to the decision making of the community at large. It provides a forum for students to learn the ethics, values and skills needed to succeed in their chosen career. If you have questions or concerns, email us at cwuobserver@gmail.com.

Gaudino announces closures, layoffs

Continued from Page 1

There is a reported increase in both applications and students admitted to CWU from last year (2,171 versus 2,532), the total confirmed student count is 14% lower than May 2019, according to the executive summary document.

The executive summary also specifies there is currently a 3% increase in transfer student applications over the previous year, the admitted transfer student pool is down 14%, and committed transfer student pool is 21%.

Despite these challenges, according to the document, many indicators of first year student numbers are healthy.

“Although we have initiated a variety of new recruitment strategies and activities for both freshman and transfer students, it is likely we will fall shy of our fall 2020 new student goal,” the executive summary document said. “If fall 2020 term is online classes only, we will likely fall significantly short of our new student goal.”

On April 9, trustees instructed staff to come up with three scenarios that would allow CWU to prepare for the impact of the pandemic, an action plan for each scenario and timelines for each action plan, according to the BOT meeting.

All three scenarios were required to address permanent restructuring, temporary suspension of some summer operations and cost-cutting measures, such as the hiring freeze, travel restrictions, and nonessential goods and services restriction.



Graphic by Riel Hanson

According to the email, Gaudino has required that summer classes be held virtually. He has also ordered residence halls, dining facilities, student programs and conference operations close during the summer.

“Those decisions produce changes in staffing requirements during the two months of the summer session. Therefore, the initial notices of staff reductions will be for the period July 1 through August 31, 2020. Along with the cabinet, I will review those reductions as more information becomes available,” the document stated.

Reductions in staff can be sorted into two broad categories, cyclic leave (reductions in full time employment) and furloughs. The vice presidents will submit proposals to Gaudino, who will review them and forward decisions to human resources (HR).

“HR will work with hiring managers to notify the affected staff and to schedule advising appointments,” the email reads. “The university will honor its labor agreements and employee codes.”

The fiscal year 2021 baseline budget is nearly complete, according to the notes from the BOT meeting. It does not include any mitigation efforts centered around the pandemic. Alternative budgets will be made based around mitigation efforts after they’re determined in May or June.

County variance update

Bailey Tomlinson
News Editor

The Kittitas County Incident Management Team (IMT) was informed by Washington State Secretary of Health John Wiesman that a two week waiting period must be observed before the county’s variance application can be considered.

This two week incubation period, correlating with the two week timeframe it takes for the coronavirus to express itself, will end on May 26.

The waiting period is to provide an assurance that the outbreak associated with Twin City Foods did not affect more of the county than originally thought. There are no other requirements currently being placed on Kittitas County for the variance to be considered.

Current County Info

- To date, Kittitas County has 64 total confirmed cases of COVID-19.
- 49 of 64 cases are related to the Twin Cities Foods outbreak.
- There are no hospitalizations at this time.

SURC opens new fresh bar option

Mitchell Roland
Senior Reporter

While few students remain on campus, those who do have a new dining option.

The new option, Fresh Bar, opened at the start of spring quarter in the SURC. The new eatery features a menu including items such as avocado toast, salmon and fresh juice. Dean Masuccio, the director of dining services, said it was important for the restaurant to open to provide students with more choices.

“We wanted to balance out with the other options that are open,” Masuccio said. “We were committed to providing this new option.”

Masuccio said while options such as a burger or chicken tenders are still available, Fresh Bar offers students a lighter alternative.

Masuccio said Fresh Bar is taking extra safety measures, such as only offering takeout and requiring customers to follow social distancing guidelines while waiting for their food. A plexiglass window was installed between customers and the cashier to limit interaction.

In the kitchen, Masuccio said, employees are preparing the food in smaller portions and are also following social distancing guidelines.

Though Fresh Bar is open, a second restaurant scheduled to open in the spring, Panini, will now not open for several months. Masuccio said the sandwich shop will likely open fully in the fall.

Though Fresh Bar is open, few students have tried it out. Masuccio said Dining Services is currently only serving about 5% of the

customers they typically do.

However, Masuccio said the reactions from those who have eaten at Fresh Bar have been positive, and he anticipates more customers when students return to campus.

“I only see it going up from here,” Masuccio said.

Amos Kibathi, a freshman majoring in physics and engineering, said he’s sparsely visited Fresh Bar since it opened. Kibathi said while he enjoyed a recent sample of a vitality shot the eatery was giving out, he didn’t like the wrap he ate during his other trip.

“They were a little bit too cold when I ate them,” Kibathi said.

Kibathi said rather than going to Fresh Bar, he prefers the other food the SURC has available such as Lion’s Rock Broiler.

“The burgers are pretty good,” Kibathi said.

Arthur Mosiman, a junior business administration and economics double major, said Fresh Bar is a welcomed addition, and it represents who he is.

“If I was a place who sold food in the SURC, this would be me,” Mosiman said.

Mosiman said a restaurant that serves kombucha and soup embodies who he is as a person, and he’s been pushing for a restaurant like Fresh Bar since Masuccio arrived on campus. While Mosiman said he enjoys the fresh juices, the other food in the SURC isn’t special.

“It’s passable. It’s SURC food,” Mosiman said.

Mosiman said his favorite menu item is the Mediterranean bowl with chicken.

Tomas Mariscal, a sophomore physics major, said he goes to Fresh Bar quite a bit and estimated he’s visited 10 to 15 times since opening.

“I’ve gone to try out now almost every



Graphic by Teagan Kimbro

single juice that they have,” Mariscal said. “There’s maybe only like one that I haven’t tried.”

Mariscal said he enjoys the apple carrot juice, which his mom used to make him when he was younger. Mariscal also said he enjoys the poke bowl at the eatery.

“I’ve tried their classic poke bowl and the spicy one,” Mariscal said. “Both are really good. I really enjoy them.”

While Panini won’t open until the

fall, Masuccio said students will have an opportunity to get a taste of the menu in the coming weeks. Masuccio said Dining Services is holding mini pop-ups every Tuesday, where a currently closed dining option will open with limited items, and that Panini will open for a pop-up soon.

Masuccio said the mini pop-ups are intended “to provide some variety” for students who are still on campus.

Sub quarter quickens class timelines

Michelle Reyes
Staff Reporter

CWU is offering a six week course to current and future students. The courses will be online and count towards academic credit which will be reflected on official transcripts.

“Offering the six week program at the end of the term offers alternatives to students who may have dropped a course at the beginning of the term but still want to have a full load and continue onto their path to graduation without losing time,” Associate Provost for Undergraduate and Faculty Affairs Gail Mackin said.

This program is for non matriculating students, or non degree seeking students, meaning they would not be enrolled at CWU to obtain a degree. Students in this program only attend certain classes. After taking those classes, they can apply to be full degree seeking students and count some of the credits earned to the classes towards a specific degree.

The courses chosen for this program are considered general education and appeal to a wide range of students. For en-

rolled students, paying for classes would count towards spring credit hours. Students who are not enrolled would pay for the classes along with a \$40 fee because they aren’t enrolled.

“We worked with the colleges and departments to figure out who would be interested in teaching these courses. Then we narrowed it down to six courses. The idea was to pilot it with the interest of the college and departments and the faculty,” Ediz Kaykayoglu, interim associate provost for extended learning and outreach, said.

The courses offered are HUM 102, IT 165, IT 202, PHIL 104, PHIL 101 and RELS 101.

Bruce Palmquist, a professor in the physics and science education departments, said, “I like the idea that the classes can be a mix of full time students, young people, but also include people from the

community...it diversifies CWU’s course offering, but it can also diversify the student population in some classes that are typically taken by 18 to 22-year-olds.”

Palmquist said his content for the shortened class is more concentrated. He is able

to work with new material in an online setting he would normally only use in a face-to-face class. As a result, Pamquist was able to use his program and make the changes necessary because of the small class.

“We are really happy with the outcome of the students, and their interests are really important for us,”

Kaykayoglu said .

Mackin said a six week period is much more appealing to a working student than 10 weeks since they can focus on the classes intently and then move on to the next.

Palmquist said he hopes his students

gain an interest in astronomy. If his students continue to use an astronomy app on their phone or read an article about it when the class is over, he would consider that a success.

“There is the potential for both online and in person. It really depends on the demand and the nature of the course. At this point we will continue online until we recognize that students are interested in a face-to-face program,” Mackin said.

Courses offered during sub quarter:

- HUM 102
- IT 165
- IT 202
- PHIL 104
- PHIL 101
- RELS 101

Housing to allow students to retrieve belongings from empty dorm buildings

Ty McPhee
Staff Reporter

CWU Housing has announced through updates posted to their webpage and emails sent out to the student body there is a plan on how students may get any belongings left in dorms back.

Starting May 18 at noon, students will be able to sign up online through their MyHousing portal for a time slot to go back to campus and retrieve their belongings.

The official date range for when students are allowed to do so after signing up for a time is June 15 through July 15.

With COVID-19 still affecting the community, steps have been added to this year’s check out process in order to ensure the safety of students and staff. According to the CWU Housing page update, no more than three adults including the student are allowed to come and collect belongings.

Pets, children and friends are asked to stay home. One family will be allowed in elevators at a time.

Tricia Rabel, Executive Director for Housing and Residence life said that the use of masks will be heavily suggested to those collecting their things, but it will not be required.

“Normally we would have move-in carts to help take care of the move out process, those aren’t available because we can’t guarantee they’ve been sanitized between use,” Rabel said.

Rabel noted that a lot of computer coding went into the checkout process to keep people as separate as possible. 4 hours is given to those needing to move out their items, and halls that have multiple wings will schedule people at the same time in separate wings to prioritize safety while still being efficient.

“We’re asking people not to share el-

evators with other families if they need it or stairwells. There’s space between each checkout timeslot, a 30 minute space where our custodial will really work hard at doing additional sanitation,” Rabel said.

Students that are out of state or out of the country are being accounted for on a one on one basis, according to Rabel.

“That could look anything from us boxing up items and storing them until fall. It could be finding a time outside of the normal parameters for our checkout move out. Anything within health restrictions, we will work with the student on,” Rabel said.

Students that needed extra care taken with their possessions, like watering plants or keeping fish fed, were taken care of by staff.

“We worked with students and moved their plants from their residence hall room into a central location, so our RES life office now, Rabel said. “We have two big conference rooms that have a lot of plants in them and then we have quite a few fish that we need to take care of.”

Students will be able to sign up for an available time slot to collect their possessions through their MyHousing page beginning May 18.



Casey Rothgeb/The Observer

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The Ellensburg Pet Center helps humans in need find furry friends for life indeed

Samantha Cabeza
Staff Reporter

Empty cages at rescue centers mean more people are adopting animals during the stay-at-home order.

Quarantine has caused more students and residents of Ellensburg to adopt all kinds of critters.

Adoption rates have gone up as the weeks have gone on, which means animals are spending less time at the pound and more time in loving homes.

Locals, as well as people all over the country, are emptying out cages and bringing home animals to keep them company during the loneliness of isolation.

According to a receptionist at the Ellensburg Pet Center (EPC), they have noticed that more animals are being adopted since the stay-at-home order began. EPC is currently open to the public.

EPC sells animals like birds, fish and cats. The animal center said on their website that the kittens they hold at their store are rescue kittens, so the center offers free vouchers to get the cats neutered or spayed.

The Ellensburg City Animal Center is currently closed due to the stay-at-home order. Their voicemail explains that most of their animals found foster homes for the time being, and the animals currently there are being cared for.

Zoe Whittaker-Jameson, a junior studying elementary education, adopted a kitten from a friend that would have gone to the shelter if she didn't take him



Photo Courtesy of Tiffini Hawkins



Photo Courtesy of Zoe Whittaker-Jameson

in. Whittaker-Jameson is currently living alone in Ellensburg with her cat.

"It is comfortable living with him since I am alone and he makes me feel less isolated," Whittaker-Jameson said.

Whittaker-Jameson said knowing there is a living creature in the house with her makes her more comfortable rather than feeling alone. Her cat cheers her up when she's sad by playing fetch outside with her on a sunny day.

"I think it's good that adoption rates are going up because I think that is preventing a lot of people from adopting an animal without the intention to keep it forever," Whittaker-Jameson said.

Tiffini Hawkins, a senior studying public health, has a cat named Mavis that she rescued with her roommate. Hawkins, her roommate and their cat live in Ellensburg in an apartment.

"Mavis is like our third roommate and owns the apartment essentially," Hawkins said. "She is so sassy but I wouldn't want to be quarantined with anybody else."

Hawkins is considered an essential worker as she works at Linder Chiropractic as a massage therapist and at Starbucks as a barista. She said after a long day of massages or serving drinks, she loves to

come home and hug Mavis. Hawkins has had to work almost every day.

"I am so glad we got her when we did. She is so comforting and wonderful and the joy she brings us is an emotion we need especially during the stay-at-home order," Hawkins said.

There are multiple ways to adopt an animal without having to go to a shop. If you are looking for a furry friend to help keep you company during isolation, there are multiple ways you can adopt. Pet Finder and Ellensburg Pet Center are easily accessible resources to help somebody look for an animal during the stay-at-home order.

The Farmers Market continues with changes

Continued from Page 1

According to Lamb, the Farmers Market will be focused on plants the first month and transition into local produce later in the season.

A highlight, according to Lamb, is that The Ellensburg Distillery switched from making gin to making hand sanitizer.

Lamb said it's important for people to get a taste of local food and take the opportunity to explore different flavors, shapes and sizes of produce.

Lamb said the Farmers Market is beneficial to support local farmers and provide them the opportunity to maintain their farms.

This year the market had planned to have a live band playing, but to encourage people to practice social distancing and not gather downtown, the plan has been postponed till next year, according to Lamb.

The market will still be a fun place to be and will "take everything in strides," according to Lamb.

The Ellensburg Farmers Market is asking that 9-10 a.m. is left for the elderly and those at high risk and for shoppers to leave families at homes.

Brennan Allen, a senior majoring in geography, has enjoyed going to the

Farmers Market with his friends for years. Allen said the Farmers Market is one of the best places to hang out with friends, especially when there is nothing to do.

Allen said his favorite part of the Farmers Market was the free samples, walking around and getting to see things he normally would not find in a grocery store.

Allen enjoys being able to support local small businesses as well. With classes online, Allen thought this would have been the prime opportunity to get out and enjoy the town.

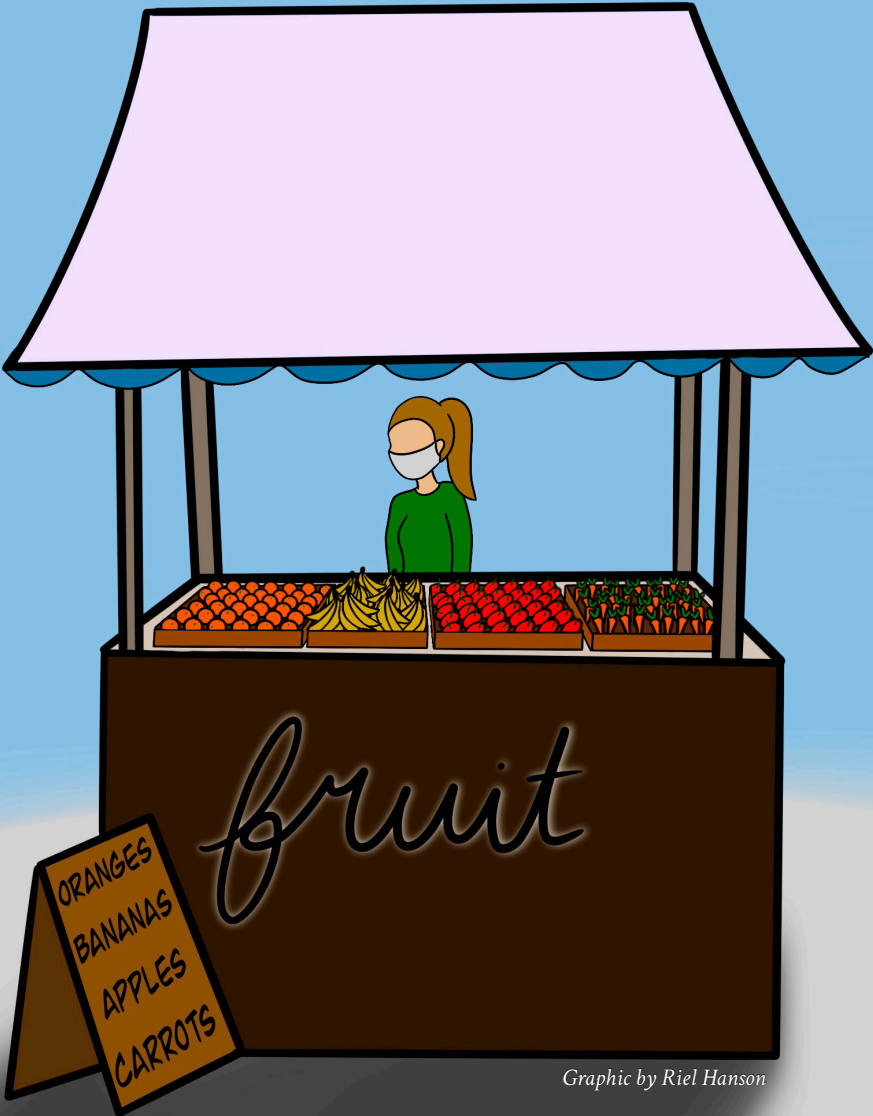
"I'd love to be able to come back next year but I am graduating, and it is just going to be the fun memory that I will always remember," Allen said.

Vivianne Lopez, a senior business administration major with a specialization in human resources, enjoys supporting the Farmers Market and likes the opportunity to see what fresh produce is being sold.

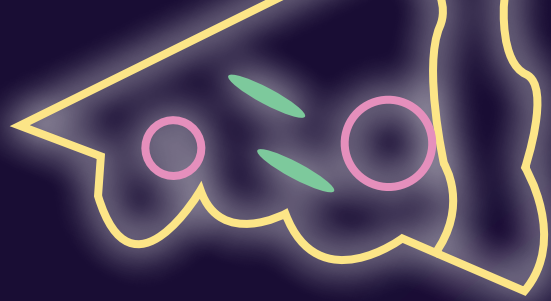
"My favorite part about the Farmers Market is the fresh artisan bread. I'll never forget it," Lopez said.

Lopez said she will miss being able to go to the market with friends. She said it was a great opportunity to get out and explore something new.

However, Lopez does not plan on attending this year with the market being far from western Washington.



Graphic by Riel Hanson

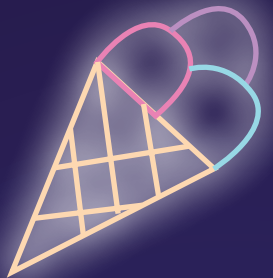
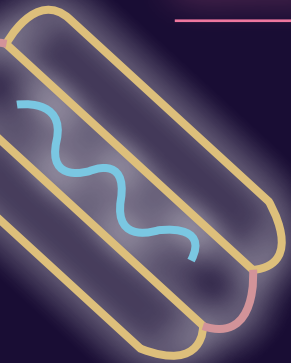


Fast food pulls thru

Written by Karina Severino

Designed by Bekah Blum

May 20, 2020



Fast food joints have stepped up their game to ensure customer and employee safety. Taco Bell, McDonald's and Jack in the Box have closed their lobbies and made their services drive-thru or curbside pick up only. They have also added protective glass to their drive-thru windows to add an extra layer of protection between the customer and employee.

Yajayra Ramirez, a safety and health management major, is a crew member at McDonald's. Ramirez said some of the precautions the store is taking have made it so she feels safer working.

All employees are now required to wear masks and gloves and have their temperature taken at the beginning of every shift. Other changes, however, have made it more stressful on employees.

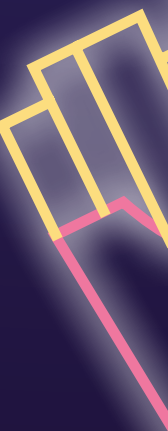
"It's very frustrating when there's like new technology being added to help us get or-


ders out to the customers as fast and safe as possible." Ramirez said. "We've added tablets to our POS [point of sale] system so now people are outside taking orders on the tablets when our drive-thru is full."

Ramirez has been working at McDonald's since December 2019. She said lately, due to the lobby being closed, there has been an increase in the cars in the drive-thru.

"It's been very challenging because sometimes our POS system does not process all the orders because we've had so many cars come through lately," Ramirez said. "It can get confusing when cashing out cars and the order doesn't show up."

Shyanne Fralick, a student majoring in law and justice with a minor in psychology, also works at McDonald's. She said it has felt a little easier now that the lobby is closed. According to Fralick, the drive-thru has set time goals for how long it should





take the food to go out to a customer. Goals have been harder to reach due to the number of people coming through during rush times.


“Our times do keep going up because we’re holding cars, and that’s one thing that’s been stressful,” Fralick said.

Fralick said other than drive-thru times changing, she likes that they are doing only drive-thru because there is less to look after compared to when the lobby was open.

Lobbies for many fast food joints are opening after the stay-at-home order is lifted. Due to social distancing, stores will have to make changes in order to ensure the safety of their customers and employees.

Ramirez said although they will be taking many precautions for when the lobby does open up, she still feels a bit unsure about it.

“We will be cleaning everything to be sanitary for both the customers and the employees,” Ramirez said. “I heard from one of the managers that we will be lim-

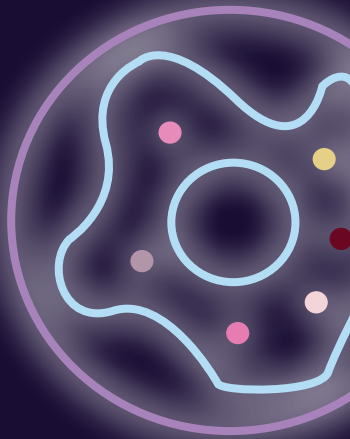


iting the amount of people in the store and having employees clean more frequently.”

Daniel Cedeno, a student majoring in safety and health management, said he would like lobbies for restaurants to be open.

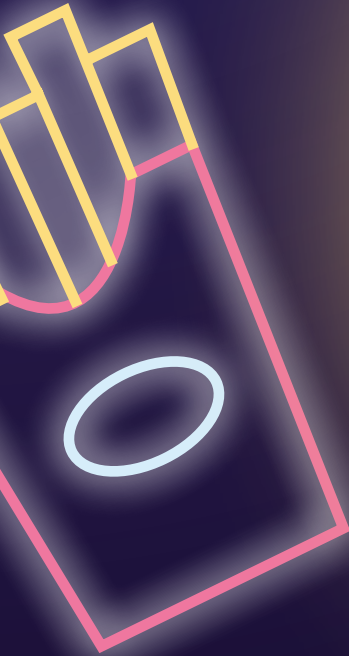
“Sometimes we want to eat our food warm and the only way to do that is eat our food then and there. By the time we get home, the food is already cold,” Cedeno said. “It’s nice to have a place for people to socialize.”

A big concern for Cedeno is the quality of sanitation and whether it is clean and safe for them to be there.



“We will be cleaning everything to be sanitary for both the customers and the employees.”

– Yajayra Ramirez, crew member at McDonald's



Ellensburg residents cycle into summer

Joseph Stanger
Staff Reporter

The ReCycle Bicycle Shop has seen a spike in business during the pandemic. Frank Johnston, the owner of the ReCycle Shop, said biking is very important to the town of Ellensburg.

“It wasn’t as obvious before the pandemic,” Johnston said. “It’s a great way to get around and it’s a good alternative.”

Johnston said he’s glad his shop was considered an essential business by Washington state.

“It feels good,” Johnston said. “We’re all glad we’re working ... we feel fortunate.”

The ReCycle shop is a full service bicycle store that sells and repairs bikes.

Recently, the store has increased cleaning measures, monitored the people entering the store and placed hand sanitizer around for customers and employees to use.

As of May 8, The ReCycle Shop also requires all customers entering the store to wear a face mask.

“We’re trying to do everything we can while [continuing] to provide services to people,” Service Manager Colton Beutel said. “Anything we can do to make things safer.”

In addition to bikes, repairs and parts, the shop also sells helmets, bags and various accessories.

“We’ve actually seen a pretty good sized spike in all of this,” Beutel said, “It’s just more difficult in ways that we haven’t encountered before.”

According to Beutel, it’s been difficult for the shop to hold on to parts and bikes for

very long due to the increase in business.

“Typically, we have bikes that we’re trying to get rid of,” Beutel said. “Now, we’re finding it’s hard for us to get bikes in order to sell. We’re basically selling bikes before they even get here.”

Beutel said business has been similar to what it’s normally like during a busy summer.

“We’re super grateful to be working and healthy,” Beutel said. “But yeah, [business] has definitely gone up.”

Trae Mcfadin, an employee at The

ReCycle Shop, said he’s grateful to still have a job during this time.

“It’s nice,” Mcfadin said. “It keeps me busy instead of being just cooped up.”

Mcfadin believes having a bike in Ellensburg is almost as good as having a car.

“Everything’s within [biking] distance,” Mcfadin said. “You can do all sorts of riding around here.”

Beutel said the shop sees all kinds of different people around town, but lately they’ve been seeing a large amount of completely inexperienced riders.

“People who had never gotten a bike are starting to see what the benefit of cycling is,” Beutel said. “Staying healthy and getting outside.”

Although nobody knows exactly when the pandemic will end, cycling will continue to be an activity people can do safely while abiding to social distancing guidelines.

“We’re super lucky to be here,” Beutel said. “Every day is a learning curve and we don’t take it for granted, that’s for sure.”



Photos by Takashi de Leon/ The Observer

The ReCycle Bicycle shop has been booked with repair orders and an increase in new customers since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The shop manager, Colton Beutel, suggests that people may be seeking alternatives to staying inside due to the shutdown.



Debating the shutdown vs. the economy misses the point

Takashi de Leon
Columnist

As the country continues to be ravaged by COVID-19, the societal and economic impacts of the virus and statewide quarantines are becoming dire. Currently, over 1.4 million Americans have confirmed cases of the virus. Restaurants and other non-essential businesses have shut down, many companies have lost their main sources of income and over 33 million Americans have lost their jobs as the economy plummets into a depression. Food banks are experiencing unprecedented long lines as citizens go hungry, and many people are facing financial bankruptcy. Protests have erupted in state capitols, demanding governors to reopen the economy.

During this crisis, debates are sparking nationwide on social media and in public spaces over keeping shutdowns in place or reopening to save the economy. However, the debate of maintaining quarantine vs. saving the economy misses the core issue at hand and creates a false dichotomy; it is entirely possible to maintain safe quarantines to protect lives while saving the economy at the same time.

To summarize the current arguments: those who support quarantine

see the clear effect it has on saving as many American lives as possible, while those who wish to reopen the country cite the countless Americans who have lost their jobs and have no income as a result. In one case, a woman in Texas was jailed for seven days when she continuously defied lockdown orders and kept her salon open. In response to accusations of selfishness by the prosecuting judge, she stated that keeping her business open was the only way she could afford to feed her children.

Although I agree that the lockdown orders are saving countless lives and preventing our medical infrastructure from being overwhelmed, and that some of the protestors oppose the shutdown unreasonably, I can also sympathize with the many victims of the current economic crisis. The key to achieving both is to provide unemployed Americans a source of income to survive and/or prevent people from being fired from their jobs in the first place.

Many countries recognized the economic impact a nationwide lockdown will cause and have established appropriate financial policies to compensate accordingly. To alleviate the financial struggles of citizens, Canada is providing \$2,000 a month to unemployed workers to support their livelihood

during the crisis. The UK government has pledged to pay 80% of the salary of employees who would otherwise be laid off due to COVID-19 to retain jobs and avoid mass-unemployment. Germany has postponed rent and loan obligations for three months up to a whole year to prevent homelessness and personal financial ruin.

Why does the United States not take similar action besides a one-time \$1,200 payout? One reason is that the current administration does not politically support what it perceives as government handouts and believes that the concept is socialistic and therefore un-American in nature. The strong cultural and political influence of the Cold War against the Soviet Union has made socialist policies and ideas inconceivable to many politicians. This is an issue unique to the United States, which is considerably more right-wing economically than other European nations; for example, the average European worker gets twice as much vacation days compared to his American counterpart, and workers enjoy significantly higher union membership.

The second reason is fiscal; many politicians and Americans believe the United States simply cannot afford to pay for such generous policies. This is also unique to the United States, as

many other countries adopt mixed social-market economies, where government spending during a financial crisis is seen as an investment towards its citizens which will pay off in the long term as the economy recovers. It is also incredibly ironic, as the United States government has a history of bailing out large corporations and CEOs with seemingly endless stimulus packages and tax cuts; for example, the 2008 Wall Street Bailout is still ongoing and is estimated to ultimately cost \$16.8 trillion according to Forbes magazine, contrary to the often quoted \$700 billion.

The third reason is lack of pressure; compared to other nations, the United States government has not faced as much pressure from citizens to implement such policies, as many Americans do not support or are unfamiliar with these strong economic policies. Many protesters simply demand the economy reopens so they can go back to work, instead of demanding a financial bailout during the lockdown period.

To summarize, the fiscally conservative historical framing of American politics has caused many politicians and citizens to not even consider effective financial policies that could save many American workers from economic depression.

Graphic by Teagan Kimbro

Graphic by Riel Hanson

Outer Banks is the best show on Netflix

Holly Hunter
Columnist

On March 31, I was casually scrolling through Instagram when I saw a trailer for a new Netflix original series, *Outer Banks*. I was instantly in awe of the trailer; it showed hints of drama, action and romance like running from the cops and surfing in a storm. What more could someone ask for in a show? I couldn't wait for the show to drop on April 15. When that day came around I wanted to start it but online classes had just started, and honestly they were already kicking my butt, so I resisted. When I did decide to watch about two weeks later, there was no going back.

When you first look at the title on Netflix, it talks about four friends who go on a treasure hunt. Don't worry, Netflix didn't go and make a *Goonies* reboot. Though, that's what Chase Stokes, who plays protagonist John B, thought when he originally turned down the role.

Outer Banks is a young adult (YA) series that takes place in the outer banks of North Carolina. You have the Pogues who are low class people who usually work multiple jobs and they live in the "cut" or the run down part of the island. Then you have the Kooks, the rich people on the island who live in what the show calls "figure eight."

The cut is filled with a bunch of surfer kids who live in run down houses. When a hurricane strikes the island, they lose power for what could be the entire summer. But for the Kooks, their houses may have some fallen trees, but they have their yachts, second homes and generators to

back them up.

Despite the Pogues being less fortunate they are still trying to make the best of their situation. Four of the Pogues (John B, JJ, Pope and Kiara) are planning to have the best summer of their lives, but when they realize John B's dad went missing some time ago trying to find \$400 million worth of gold, the summer soon turns into a treasure hunt.

The Pogue and Kook kids have many run ins with each other leading to fights and revenge frequently taken on each other. Friendships are made between the two classes though. "Kook Princess" Sarah Cameron ends up joining the Pogues in their hunt which raises some issues of course, but it wouldn't be a show without that drama. A love story and you could even argue a few different love triangles come from Sarah turning against the Kooks to live the Pogue lifestyle.

Outer Banks will also hit home to some because it shows some characters' struggles with addiction, abusive parents and having no parents at all. It's of course all fiction but I think it can be very relatable for some.

It's safe to say Stokes was very wrong about the assumption that the show was a *Goonies* reboot, and when he got the opportunity to audition once again for the role of John B, and read the first four episodes, he was not disappointed.

I tried to resist watching the entire first season in two days, but with cliffhanger after cliffhanger I just couldn't. It was around 1:30 a.m. on my second day of streaming when I finished, and

let's just say I didn't regret it all. I am now on my third viewing and have stalked and followed the cast on every social media platform.

The main cast got to have a lot of input with the writers to really make it their own, and they had goals of making it relevant to teenagers' lives. They nailed it. Some of their improvisation work that wasn't in the script also made the final cut so their real personalities shine in *Outer Banks*.

Some more perks of the show? The cast is incredibly good looking and while they all play 16-year-olds on the show, they are all in their twenties in real life so it's perfectly okay to swoon (like me).

The cast is all very close in real life, and some of them are even quarantining together in Los Angeles. This made me so much more intrigued with the show knowing all of their chemistry is genuine. The actors have cliqued since day one. Some of them lived together while filming, they went to Las Vegas together, went on road trips and even snowboarded in the winter. The chemistry they have offscreen plays so well into the chemistry they all have on screen, making the show even better.

The show has been in Netflix's top 10 streamed titles pretty much since it came out with multiple days at number one. If my bragging about the show, and the proof by its viewers that it is in fact that good doesn't make you want to watch, I don't know what will. Anyway, go stream *Outer Banks* on Netflix now, and if you've already seen it join me in watching it again. It's the perfect quarantine binge.

Flooding issues continue to trouble residents

Rey Green
Staff Reporter

Landlords are trying to find a company to fix the flooding on a local resident's driveway.

Preschool teacher and elementary education major Noelle Wadlow said this year's flooding has been the worst she has ever seen or experienced.

"Usually, when it floods it only lasts for a few days. This year has been significantly worse," Wadlow said.

Kittitas County has an entire web page dedicated to being prepared for flooding. According to co.kittitas.wa.us, flooding can occur anywhere in Kittitas County, not just by rivers and streams. Floods can occur from excessive rain, irrigation canals and levees breaching or overtopping, and ice jams.

When flooding occurs, the website says to place sandbags by doors and other areas where floodwaters could enter the home. The website also says to use sandbags to direct water away from the house and other structures.

The website recommends that no one drives or walks through the flood waters. Six inches of water can knock over a person and two feet of water will carry away most cars. Most flood deaths occur in a vehicle, according to the website.

"There were sandbags that were already in place on the driveway in case of a flood," Wadlow said. "This year compared to other years have been way worse and the sandbags were completely ineffective."

Wadlow's driveway was not properly built. The driveway has a downward slope and it is filled mostly with loose gravel. The water has eroded away at the driveway over the years and the driveway couldn't handle it anymore.

Wadlow isn't sure when the flooding problem will be fixed. She said the entire driveway needs to be rebuilt in order for the problem to be solved.

"Our landlords have been super helpful and awesome during this process. The landlord is working with the City



Nicholas Tucker/*The Observer*

Elementary education major Noelle Wadlow isn't sure when the flooding problem in front of her house will be fixed. "Usually, when it floods it only lasts for a few days. This year has been significantly worse," Wadlow said.

of Ellensburg and the Kittitas County office to do something about the flooding," Wadlow said. "The property manager who lives next door lets us park in their driveway and are doing what they can to help out."

Wadlow is currently working and has to deal with trying to get around the flood to get to her car. This is a hassle for her and a big safety concern. Wadlow also has a small dog to worry about and doesn't want him to get swept in the waters.

"It has been nerve-wracking not knowing when the driveway will be fixed. I was worried daily about the water hitting the house if the flood got worse. For a while it was pretty scary," Wadlow said.

With so many places being closed, it is uncertain when Wadlow's driveway will be fixed. She will continue to park on the street or at her neighbor's driveway. As for now, Wadlow has said the flooding has been getting better. As the weather starts to improve, the flooding also seems to decrease.

“ I was worried about the water hitting the house if the flood got worse. For a while it was pretty scary. ”
- Noelle Wadlow
Preschool teacher and elementary major



Nicholas Tucker/*The Observer*

40 days of quarantine: how one local family was impacted by COVID-19

Continued from Page 1

While Juan knew he couldn't be by his mother's side, he started doing other things to show her he cared. Whether it was grocery shopping or running other errands, Juan wanted to do whatever he could to help his mom.

"I was just doing everything I could to let them know I was there for them," Juan said.

Since Juan's parents are in quarantine, neither of them are able to work.

Filiberto Serrano, Juan's dad, typically works in a warehouse from May to October during the cherry season. Juan had to insist that his dad stay home in order to protect his health.

"He understands now that it's probably best for him to stay home," Juan said. "He's never really dealt with a situation like this."

Trinidad works full time at Zirkle Fruit Company in Selah, Washington.

"I've worked my entire life," Trinidad said. "It's been really difficult."

Juan also has to worry about others. His roommate is immunocompromised, which means if the virus spreads to her, the impact on her health could be more severe due to her weakened immune system.

"I always have to think about how my decisions are going to impact the person I'm living with," Juan said. "I only go out when I think it's necessary."

The only time Juan goes out is when he needs to buy groceries, to walk on a trail near his house or to go to work.

While Juan's work puts him at greater risk, he feels fortunate to be employed at all.

For the past year and a half, Juan has worked for an industrial cleaning service, Cintas Uniform Services. His sister, who works at the same facility, was temporarily let go from her job. Juan said three people in his shift have been fired, and even more from the first shift were laid off.

"It was kind of frightening when all of this started to go down," Juan said. "I thought I was going to get let go."

At Juan's job, he washes and sanitizes materials including hospital garments. He worries about the possibility of getting COVID-19 at work even though they take extra precaution with materials that come from hospitals.

"There's always that chance that something is loose," Juan said. "It's just one of those things where the possibility is always there."

For Juan, a family member having COVID-19 has reinforced how serious the



Photo courtesy of Juan Serrano

virus is. That's why Juan gets so frustrated when people try to brush off its severity.

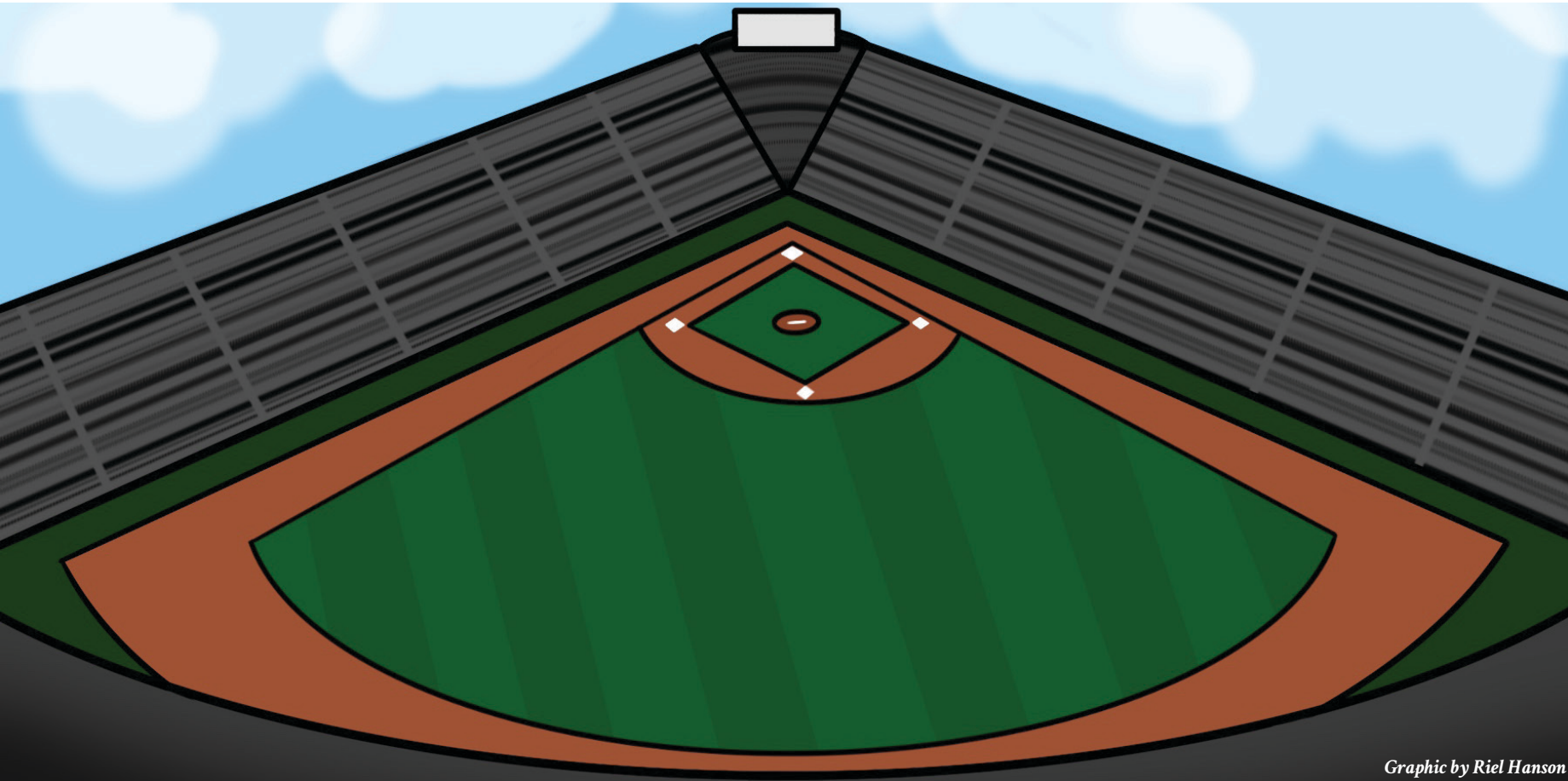
Regardless of how many times he talks about it, and even when he brings up that his own mom had the virus, Juan has a friend who refuses to accept how serious it is.

Despite this, Juan isn't giving up. His mom having the virus has reinforced how serious it is for people to stay at home.

Trinidad said people need to stay connected during the pandemic.

"It's important that we stay together and stay united," Trinidad said. "Be strong."

MLB owners and players discussing potential return



Graphic by Riel Hanson

Holly Hunter
Staff Reporter

Major League Baseball (MLB) owners made a proposal on Monday, May 11 for the season to start by early July.

According to ESPN Baseball Insider Jeff Passan, nothing is official yet, but some main aspects of the proposal include a shortened season to 82 games, a playoff expansion from 10 to 14 teams, certain home stadium usage with ap-

proval from local and state governments, a universal designated hitter and much more.

Negotiations

The MLB expects the different aspects of the proposal to be an ongoing negotiation between the league and the Major League Baseball Players Association (MLBPA).

“Although MLB could benefit long term from being the first American

team sport to return amid the coronavirus pandemic, the logistics of starting the season remain convoluted and require player support,” Passan said.

Money could be an issue as the proposal tries to move forward. Sources told ESPN that a plan to help with financial loss could include a 50-50 revenue split with players. It’s almost a guarantee the players association would reject the revenue split, according to Passan.

The MLB is the only U.S sport that does not have a team salary cap, so a revenue split has never had to be considered. Instead, sources say the MLBPA is most likely going to counter with an agreement that gives players a prorated portion of their salaries depending on how many games they play.

“The ability to strike a financial deal could mean the difference between a baseball season and one that is canceled,” Passan said.

Details

Along with the shortened season and expanded playoffs, the proposal includes an updated schedule to give teams a chance to play non divisional opponents that are closest to them geographically.

Passan said the playoff expansion would increase team revenue due to the upward of 40% of a team’s revenue coming from ticket sales and other gate-related income.

There’s a plan in place to move teams to other cities if the state and local officials don’t allow for a return by the time July comes around. The MLB commissioner, Rob Manfred, has been calling governors to speak about baseball’s return, multiple sources told ESPN.

Concerns

Players will express their concerns about the MLB’s handling of testing, and making sure there’s a safe work-

ing environment when they meet with owners, according to sources.

Players have some different views and concerns about this proposal as they begin negotiations with the league. Washington Nationals relief pitcher Sean Doolittle already turned to social media to express what he would like to see in the proposal. He talks about protecting not only players but the vast amount of other employees who make baseball run smoothly.

“How many tests do we need to safely play during a pandemic? And not just tests for players. Baseball requires a massive workforce besides the players. Coaches, clubhouse staff, security, grounds crews, umpires, gameday stadium staff, TV and media...we need to

protect everyone,” Doolittle said. “And that’s before we get to hotel workers and transportation workers (pilots, flight attendants, bus drivers). They are essential workers. We wouldn’t be able to play a season without them, and they deserve the same protections.”

Doolittle also said even

though 80% of COVID-19 cases only show mild symptoms, he wouldn’t want anybody involved with baseball to be in the 20% who have more extreme symptoms. He said one feels like too many.

He finished his thoughts saying with no vaccine yet and the possibility of a second wave of COVID-19, he wants a health plan focused on prevention and some kind of reactive plan focused on containment if there was an outbreak of the virus in baseball.

“Hopefully these concerns will be addressed in MLB’s proposal, first and foremost,” Doolittle said. “One, what’s the plan to ethically acquire enough tests? Two, what’s the protocol if a player, staff member or worker contracts the virus? We want to play. And we want everyone to stay safe.”

“The ability to strike a financial deal could mean the difference between a baseball season and one that is canceled.”
- Jeff Passan
ESPN Baseball Insider

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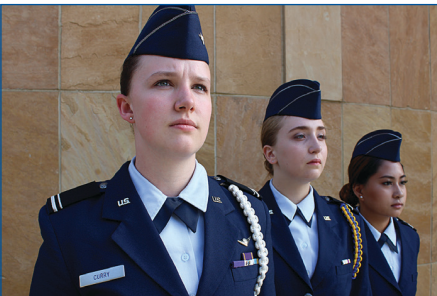
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No-Bake Peanut Butter Cookies

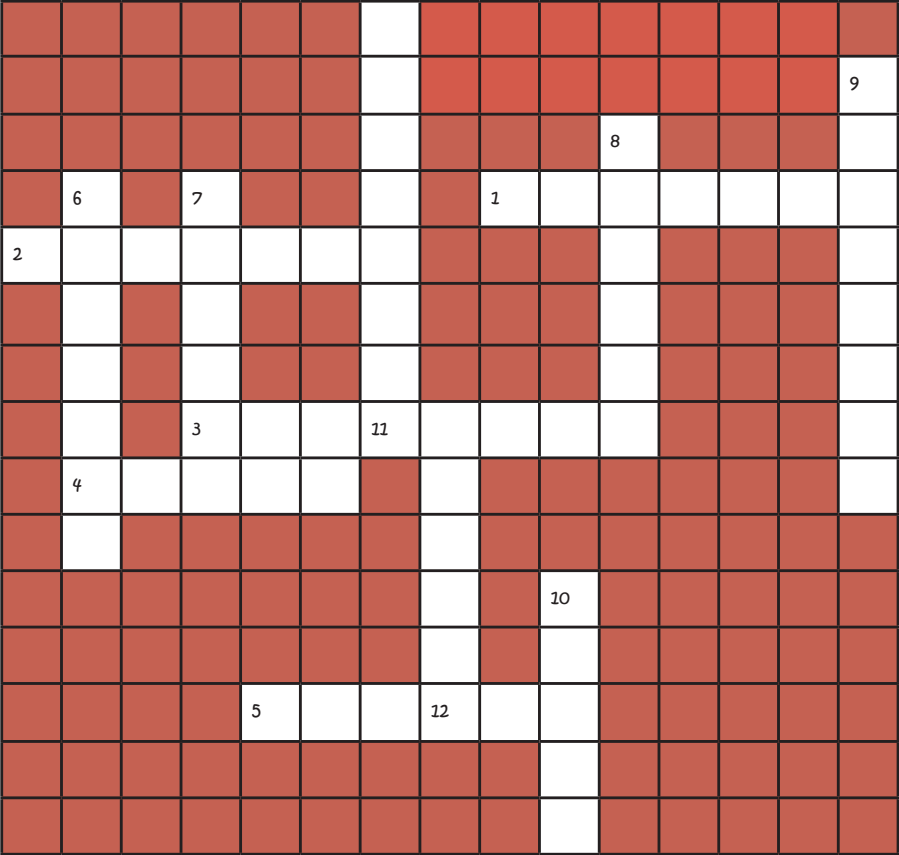
Ingredients:

- 3 cups milk
- 3/4 cup butter
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1/2 tsp Vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 cups peanut butter
- 4 1/2 cups quick-oats
- (Optional) one chocolate bar

1. In a sauce pan, over medium heat, combine sugar, butter and milk. Bring to a rapid boil and boil for one minute.
2. Remove mixture from heat and stir in vanilla and peanut butter.
3. Mix in oats and stir until the mixture starts to cool.
4. With a tablespoon, drop batter onto wax paper and let cool until set.
5. (Optional) Melt chocolate in the microwave and drizzle on top of cookies when set
6. Enjoy!!!



Quarantine Crossword



Hints

Across

1. Interaction with a book
2. Making something
3. Reading a textbook and taking notes
4. Sipping a beverage
5. Wake up juice

Down

6. People you like to enjoy your time with
7. Something that protects your face
8. Cooking in the oven
9. Companionship
10. Need 8 hours of it

Up

11. Stay far away!
12. People related to you

